

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the programme/advertisement code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Programme code provides, *inter-alia*, that no programme shall be carried in the cable service, which offends against good taste or decency, contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths, or denigrates women. Wherever found necessary, the programmes of the channels are also monitored. Action against continued violation of the prescribed codes is to be taken by the authorized officers of the State Government, which include the District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified by the State Government.

(b) At present, there are no DTH operators in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Malpractices in the official media

1042. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers and other cadres in the official electronic media have been proceeded against for corruption during the last five years;

(b) whether any convictions; and

(c) whether there is a Vigilance Cell in her Ministry to curb malpractices in the official media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

(c) There is a Vigilance set up in the Ministry which, *inter alia*, coordinates with the Vigilance set ups of the Media Units, including Prasar Bharati.

Nexus between film makers and underworld

1043. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of leaders of film industry is being proposed to discuss the nexus between film makers and the underworld;

(b) if so, the response received in this regard, so far; and

(c) the steps taken to clean film industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division), Ministry of Finance, whereunder the "Entertainment Industry including Films" has been specified as an approved activity under "Industrial Concern" in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2(c) (xvii) of the IDBI Act. The Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) has asked the IDBI to evolve well-recognized and acceptable standards to enable financial institutions to fund ventures relating to the film industry. The Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division) has also asked the RBI along with the IDBI to circulate necessary guidelines to banks in this regard.

To help the film industry to function along organized lines, an Advisory Group comprising key representatives of the film sector has been set up to advise the Ministry on Policy and other issues relating to the film industry.

Downsizing of the staff

1044. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in keeping with the latest thinking in Government circles there is a move to downsize different departments/institutions working under her Ministry to reduce the work force there;

(b) if so, the names of departments/institutions under the Ministry where staff is going to be downsized; and

(c) the number of posts in 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' categories to be reduced and the time likely to be taken in completing this work?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (Geethakrishnan Committee) has made recommendations about re-organisation of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its Media Units. The matter has been discussed with the Heads of Media Unit as also by the Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry. The need for